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Moscow Welshes Again

If anybody had any doubts as to how much a Soviet promise is worth, Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, could give them the answer. It is: "Zero." He has learned this from two recent examples of broken promises.

Broken Promise No. 1. This was made by Nikita Khrushchev on his 1955 pilgrimage to Canossa to beg Marshal Tito's pardon for having been called a fascist beast by Joe Stalin. Khrushchev signed a solemn pledge recognizing Yugoslavia's right to follow "separate paths" to "socialism."

Broken Promise No. 2. This was a promise of \$250,000,000 in economic aid, principally to build an aluminum plant in Montenegro. But in recent weeks Yugoslavia's Seventh Party Congress insisted on ratifying a program which insisted on maintaining co-operation with the West as well as the Soviet. This went against Moscow's sharp advice. So, yesterday, Moscow canceled the promised aid (the euphemism used was a "five-year postponement").

Moreover, if anybody needed to be told how the Soviet Union suppresses most news, and distorts that little which it prints, Marshal Tito could tell them. Here is what the official Belgrade daily, "Borba," has to say about "Pravda's" attack on the Yugoslav program:

"In the article which professes to give an 'analysis' of the Seventh Congress and the program of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, 'Pravda' failed to cite in full a single idea from the program or the reports delivered.... The attitude of the League of Communists has been represented in a wholly distorted

light.... This shows that the exponents of this 'criticism' do not wish to acquaint their readers with the actual results of the Seventh Congress."

"Pravda" quoted disapprovingly the following Yugoslav declaration: "We would wish that our policy and views on international problems might be harmonized as much as possible with the views of America and the other Western countries." This is "Borba's" retort: "The authors of the 'Pravda' article know full well that our acceptance of U. S. aid in no way restricted Socialist Yugoslavia in the pursuit of the kind of internal and foreign policy which we considered and consider best suited to the interests of our people.... The existing relations between the U. S. and Yugoslavia contributed to the fostering of friendly feeling between the peoples of Yugoslavia and the U. S. A. where there are over 1,000,000 citizens of Yugoslav origin with industrial workers making up the overwhelming majority. Nobody is entitled to condemn those forms of co-operation which contribute to the improvement of international relations... and understanding between peoples.... The Yugoslav public always knew how to find a worthy answer to all such insults and never allowed any one to besmirch the dignity and pride of our people."

Well said, Marshal Tito. These broken promises again illustrate that the Communist monolith cannot tolerate even the slightest showing of independent thought, and for a very compelling reason: a little freedom is a dangerous thing, and very, very infectious.

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